MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

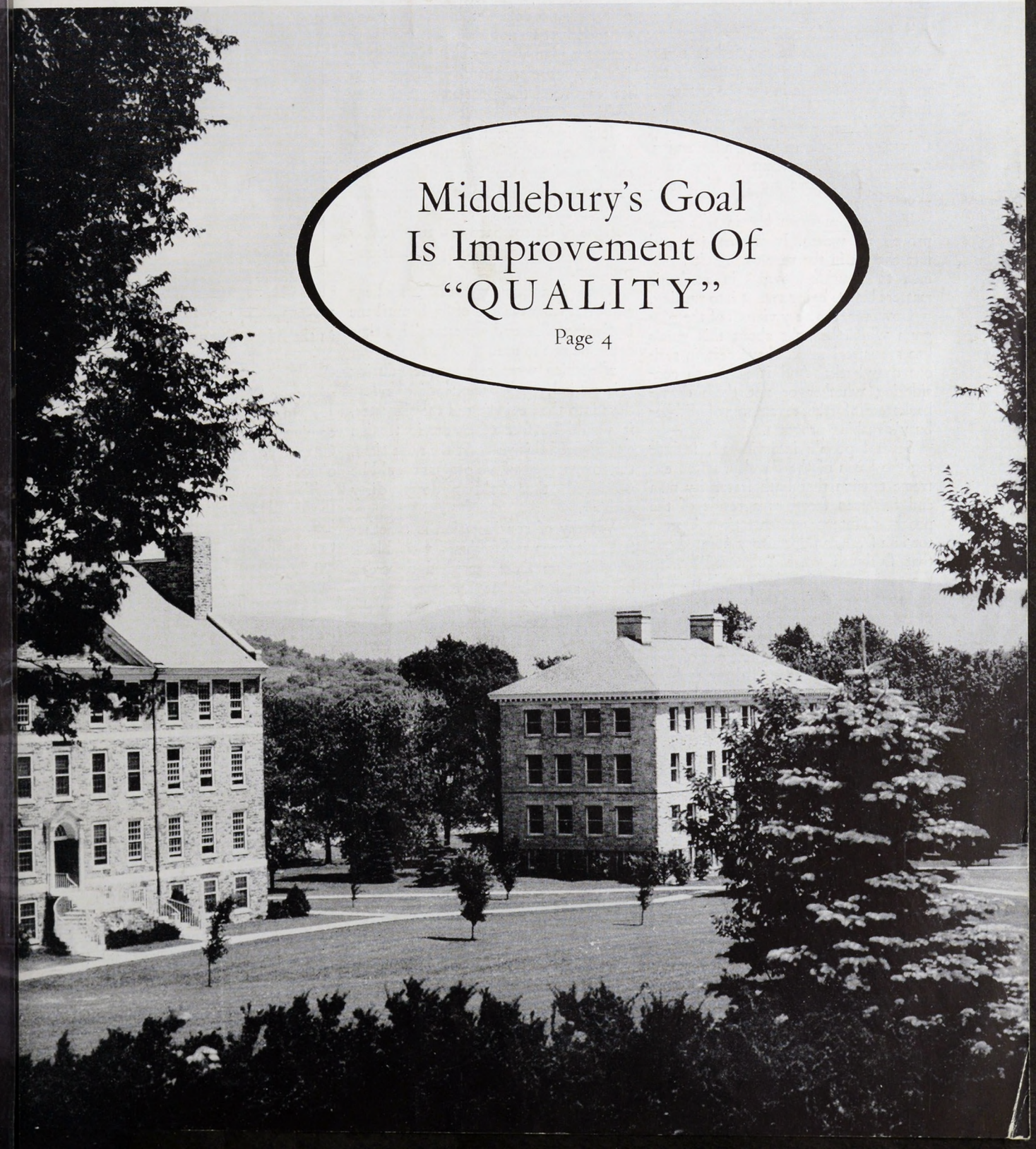
Spring 1958

Your Family and Middlebury

ENT BY THE COLLEGE TO MIDDLEBURY PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Middlebury's Goal Is Improvement Of "QUALITY"

Page 4



CAMPUS Commentator

REPORTING THE STUDENT SIDE OF MIDDLEBURY NEWS

*Rushing: A New Plan**

THE now-traditional editorial review of rushing can be painted this year in more encouraging tones due to the remarkable increase in the percentage of freshmen pledged.

Ninety percent of freshmen going through rushing have joined a fraternity, representing 77 percent of the total class. These figures are the highest in recent years.

The new program has in this sense proved its worth. It is compact, and late enough in the year to permit freshmen to "buckle down" in academic matters before being swept into rushing.

However, the very virtues of the program which brought about this year's fine statistical results have certain serious drawbacks. And it is worth considering whether or not these drawbacks merit further revamping of Middlebury's rushing program.

Several people interviewed, including the Dean of the Faculty, noted extreme tension that both fraternity men and freshmen faced as a result of the program's intense concentration. A proctor in a freshman dormitory pointed out that freshmen were "obsessed" with the topic of rushing during this period, and that those feeling themselves in danger of being "left out" were under extreme emotional pressure.

Fraternities were not left out of this emotional vise. Although dirty rushing was not as flagrant this year as last, it still was a problem, according to scattered freshman reports.

The most serious drawback was the time chosen for rushing. The academic log-jam from Thanksgiving to Christmas is a Middlebury tradition almost as firmly entrenched as skiing, and the emotional strain created by the brevity of the program was aggravated by the concurrent academic crush.

What is the answer?

The early first-semester plan, used until last year, was scored because it did not allow freshmen to get their feet on the ground before rushing. Last year's delayed first-semester and early second-semester plan was seriously inadequate in many respects, but chiefly because of its length and the great amount of dirty rushing.

It is imperative that academic considerations come first in the attempted solution of any college problem. This year's program has fallen down specifically in this area, a "timing" problem. Because of its compactness, it adversely affected student well-being, a "tension" problem.

There is a four-day break in College activities from the end of finals until the beginning of second semester. This time could be put to use.

If rushing were concentrated during this period, perhaps extending a few days into the beginning of the semester, it would be free of academic tension experienced this year. At the same time, the compactness of the program could be preserved, thus holding down dirty rushing.

Worthy of consideration is whether fraternity men and freshmen would balk at giving up their cherished three-day break, and whether the **present** mechanics of the system would allow the program to be completed and freshmen pledged by Carnival.

A revamping of the mechanics of Middlebury's rushing program is perhaps due. With three full days allotted to rushing under the proposed setup, rushing could be fitted into this period.

The faculty has brought increasing pressure to bear upon fraternities to have rushing in the second semester. *Second semester rushing, according to informed sources, is becoming a Fact of Life for Middlebury.* Any imposed second-semester system should come about through the Interfraternity Council rather than through faculty edict.

A searching reconsideration of the mechanics and timing of the rushing program is a MUST.

We are at a crisis.

*Editorial reprinted from the *Campus*, student newspaper.

Don Towne, '59, playing the carillon in the Mead Chapel tower.

MANY Alumni-ae remember with fondness the tones of the carillon coming forth from the tower of Mead Chapel each evening from 5:30 to 6 o'clock and Sunday before "Chapel."

Today as in past years a student plays the carillon. He is Donald M. Towne, '59. As Don stands in the darkened tower, playing the mellow-toned carillon by a naked light bulb, half of Addison County can hear him.

Songs are limited to *Alma Mater*, English ballads and occasionally, *Auld Lang Syne*. A visitor to the tower marvels at the work Don goes through to play a tune. The keys are heavy and it requires a good hard push to sound a chord. Don works not only with his hands, but with a foot to play the carillon, which has eleven bells. He plays in a key of four flats.

During "Homecoming" last fall an Alumnus climbed the tower and played a tune from memory. He had not been near a carillon since leaving Middlebury. A woman visited the tower to see if there were any changes. She found the initials she had carved on the wall years ago.

Don learned to play from Kenneth W. Milner, '57. But now Don is looking around for a substitute for him when he graduates. [*Continued on next page*]

MIDDLEBURY in the News

President Samuel S. Stratton announced recently the appointments of Fred F. Neuberger, '50, (*right*) as Director of Admissions for Men, and Lockwood Merriman (*left*), Assistant Professor of English, as Dean of Freshman Men. Mr. Neuberger, present Dean of Freshman Men, will take over the duties held by John L. Handy, Jr., who will return to full-time teaching in English. Professor Merriman will continue with his teaching responsibilities in the English Department.

Campus Commentator . . .

(*Continued from Page 2*)

AN ALLOWANCE of unlimited cuts for Dean's List students was approved recently by the Faculty. This rule will take precedence over individual professors' "who-cut" policies. "No student on the Dean's List will be penalized by a member of the Faculty for cutting classes," according to Professor Bowker, Dean of the Faculty. "The Deans of Men and Women retain disciplinary powers in this area," he said.

Administration policy permitting no cuts on the two days before and after college vacations, however, remains mandatory for all students.

Recommended by Student Life Committee, the rule reportedly is one step in increasing recognition for scholastic achievement.

The exact text of the ruling adopted by the faculty at their January meeting is as follows: "On motion of Dean Bowker, it was voted that Dean's List students be granted the privilege of unlimited cuts for the entire semester following the scholastic achievement, this privilege not to apply to the two days before and after vacation."

Otis Smith, '59, will head the new four-man *Campus* board, it was announced recently by Richard Woodworth, '58, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief. Assisting the Editor Smith will be Donald Freeman, '59, Executive Editor; Deborah Larrabee, '59, Managing Editor, and Caroline Smith, '60, Associate Editor.

Appointments were made by this year's board on the basis of written examinations, experience and service to the newspaper.

The associate editor's position was added temporarily to insure effective control of the newspaper next year. After this period, the board will return to its former three positions.

Commencement Program

1958

Friday, June 6

2:00–10:00 p.m. Registration, Student Union Building

6:30 p.m. Buffet Supper, Bread Loaf Inn

8:30 p.m. Informal Lecture by Dr. Reginald Cook, Little Theatre, Bread Loaf

Saturday, June 7

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Registration continued, Student Union Building

9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Alumni Coffee Hour, South Lounge, Student Union Building

9:30 a.m. Class Day Ceremonies, Lower Campus

10:30 a.m. Alumnae Association Meeting, Starr Library

10:30 a.m. Alumni Association Meeting, Munroe Hall

11:30 a.m. Alumnae Council Meeting

12.30 p.m. Commencement Luncheon, Memorial Field House

4:00–6:00 p.m. Informal Reception at the President's House, 3 South St.

6:00 p.m. Class Reunion Dinners

8:30 p.m. Commencement Play—"The Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder

Sunday, June 8

10:45 a.m. Baccalaureate Service, Mead Chapel

12:30 p.m. Phi Beta Kappa Dinner, Middlebury Inn

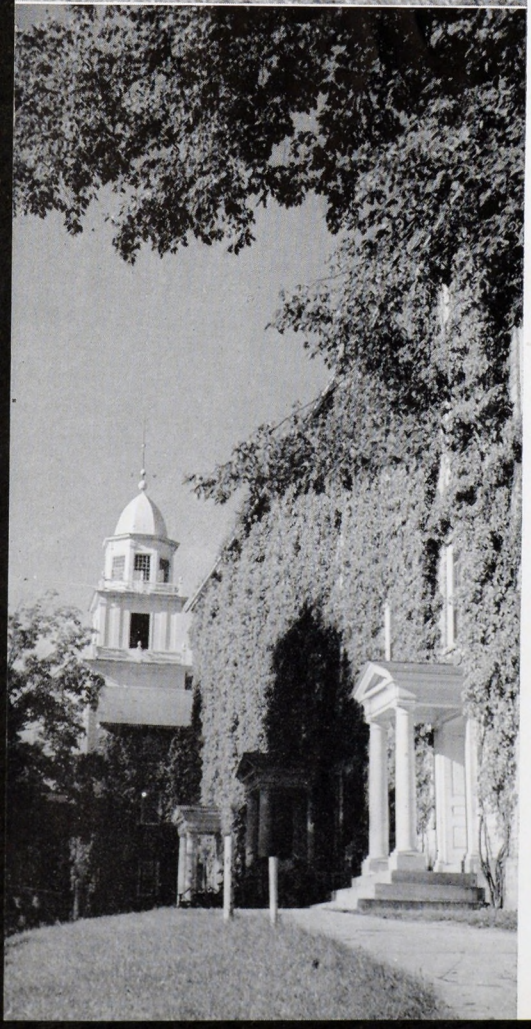
7:00 p.m. Cane Ceremony, Forest Hall Arcade

8:30 p.m. Commencement Play—"The Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder

Monday, June 9

10:15 a.m. Commencement Procession, Memorial Field House

10:30 a.m. Commencement Exercises, Memorial Field House



By Dr. Samuel S. Stratton

MIDDLEBURY'S GOAL IS IMPROVEMENT OF "QUALITY"

The President outlines some of the goals and problems facing the College in the year of 1958

MANY parents after reading the various articles about "American Higher Education" appearing today in the various magazines and newspapers may feel as I do that there is nothing left to say on this subject.

The problems and challenges have been well stated. Yet you must be tempted as I am to relate this presentation to Middlebury College. Let us ask first, where do we stand in the matter of expansion in the face of an estimated doubling of the college population by 1970? I can only repeat again that (1) on grounds of feasibility, we do not see how we can in the next decade finance any important increase in the size of the present student body. It is obvious that any sizable expansion would call for more classrooms and laboratories, and even a larger expansion of our library than is now contemplated. (2) We believe that we can make our best contribution to the problems outlined by improving constantly the quality of our education. This means not only providing more adequate facilities but preserving and improving the quality of our Faculty and, by means of selection, the quality of our student body.

Is there any evidence that Middlebury has been striving and will continue to strive for such improvement in quality? The evidence is abundant. Improvement of physical facilities is the easiest to note, and a list of such improvements is unnecessary for Middlebury graduates. Since the war, approximately $2,210,000 has been spent for physical improvement of our plant. With the expansion of our faculty, we have been able up to the present to attract and for the most part to hold an exceedingly competent group of younger men. The percentage of Ph.D.'s on our faculty has increased from 20% in 1940 to 42%. The magnitude in the increase of freshman applications has given us the opportunity to be increasingly more selective in admissions. Although statistics are available, it would seem unnecessary to present a percentage of

acceptance to applications for the pre-war years. Suffice it to say that on February 15 of this year, a few over a thousand girls had applied for admission for September 1958, and approximately eight hundred and fifty men. College Board Examinations were not required for admission for men prior to 1943, and at that time only the aptitude tests of the College Board were required from women applicants. For several years past both men and women applicants have been required to take both the aptitude and achievement tests of the College Examination Board. Over the years that we have required these full College Board tests, the average grades of the entering classes have shown constant improvement.

Lest these factual statements should lead to smug satisfaction with the status quo, it should be emphasized that for Middlebury to stand still would be to go backward, and that every effort must be made to improve the quality of our facilities, our faculty, and our student body.

Our most pressing need for facilities presently is the proposed wing on Starr Library. Walter E. Brooker, '37, Director of the College Development Program and a Trustee Committee are actively at work on the preliminary stage of raising the $1,350,000 needed for this library expansion project. At a later date the Alumni of the College will be asked to help in the achievement of our library goal.

Even for our present sized student body we need further improvement of our facilities. Our Student Union building is a temporary wooden structure and must be replaced by a modern fireproof building. Our Warner Science building is crowded, and we must look forward to providing improved facilities for all of our sciences. We are somewhat crowded even now for proper classroom space and most certainly for faculty offices and studies.

In view of the facts presented in various publications it seems gratuitous to re-state our need for the improvement of faculty salaries and opportunities for research. On the national level the average salary of a college teacher is given as "just over $5,000" and the average salary of a full professor as "just over $7,000." At Middlebury we are more than "just over" these average salaries. This, however, is no cause for satisfaction, since we seek, and for the most part achieve, more than just average competency and stature in our faculty members. Our highest priority in all of our objectives must be the search for means to finance salary increases of considerable magnitude.

Student selection is the third factor in quality education. If it is true that a college can be no better than its faculty, it is likewise true that it can be no better than its student body. Much has been written about the search for talented, outstanding students. The National Merit Scholarships and the General Motors national scholarship are examples of concrete attempts to find talented students and finance their education where aid is needed. For Middlebury it is important that we find the means to provide greatly increased scholarship support for applicants of outstanding ability. We are sorrowfully aware of the fact that each year we refuse to accept a group of such outstanding students because we cannot finance their scholarship needs.

Dr. Samuel S. Stratton
Eleventh president of Middlebury

The problem of a quality education does not end with facilities, faculty, or students. As being brought out in articles, educational objectives constantly must be discussed and reviewed. At Middlebury the Educational Policy Committee elected by the Faculty is responsible for such continuing effort. Changes in the freshman year program have recently been put into effect and further changes are under discussion. In general we are attempting to make the freshman year more stimulating to the better students. At the upper class level the problem under discussion is the same—how can we provide opportunity for more individual and creative work on the part of the most talented students? For both freshmen and upper classmen, it is a problem of proper balance, for we shall always admit to Middlebury, I hope, intelligent young men and women of good character who in their formative years cannot be classed either as geniuses or dedicated, research-minded scholars. It is equally our task to help them to find themselves, to help them to become aware of the satisfactions of intellectual tasks and achievements.

No presentation of problems of higher education is

complete without a discussion of costs and tuitions. In college circles reference is often made to the gap between tuitions collected and the cost of educating a student. Middlebury is no exception to this general rule that our tuition charges are unrealistic in relation to the cost of educating a student. Despite the fact that both our endowment and our tuition have doubled over a relatively short space of time, this gap persists. It can be closed only by further increases in tuition charges or greatly enhanced gifts for operating expenses and substantial capital gifts for our endowment. Middlebury has announced a tuition of $950 for the year beginning September 1958. Following are the announced tuition charges for 1958 in a few other colleges in the East: Bowdoin, $1050; Dartmouth $1170; Mt. Holyoke $1250; Smith $1250; Trinity $1050; Williams $1100.

These increased tuition charges will in part enable these colleges to pay higher faculty salaries and in part offer more scholarships for outstanding applicants who lack financial resources. In view of this development in other institutions, we are obviously faced with the question of what shall be our next step with regard to tuition charges.

Too often I think in reading the problems of education in 1958, we become pessimistic of our future. For just over thirty years I have been a worker in the field of higher education. In the institutions which I know at first hand—Harvard and Middlebury—I believe stronger faculty are teaching more able students than in the 1920's. I suspect this is true of a great many institutions of higher education. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly a fact that with the vast increase in college enrollments and college teachers, some mediocrity has crept into higher education over the postwar years.

I do not believe our young people are inferior in intellect to the Russians, nor that the best of our institutions of higher education are inferior to the best of Europe. We have long been familiar with the European, including Russian, system in education. We have not chosen to use nation-wide examinations to determine what young persons shall proceed to high school and second nation-wide examinations to screen for our colleges and universities. If we do choose this particular way, we shall have fewer students in our colleges and universities but not necessarily a larger number of talented students completing their degree requirements in science or in other fields. Without pessimism or envy of the European educational system, I believe we can and will find ways and means to increase the prestige of higher education so that high school students will seek it not just for social standing or purely vocational rewards. I believe competition for entrance to colleges and universities will bring about a stiffening of our standards for admission. In consequence a lift would be given to the quality and quantity of work in the high school for those who wish to go on to higher education. Perhaps we can also hope that our people will recognize that these results can be obtained without imitating the State education system of Europe. Perhaps we shall find both the will and the financial support to improve the quality of our education both in our secondary schools and in our colleges and universities.

"Our most pressing need for facilities presently is the proposed wing on on Starr Library . . ."

The Wright Memorial Theatre

By Erie T. Volkert, *Professor of Drama*

Four years ago when I last reported in the News Letter concerning "Drama at Middlebury," the College Playhouse on Weybridge Street had just burned to the ground and we were all looking forward to the day when Middlebury would have a new theatre. That day has arrived! As the News Letter goes to press a small army of craftsmen are working desperately to complete the Wright Memorial Theatre in time to welcome Alumni-ae and parents to the first Commencement performance in this new building, located on the road to the Chateau and adjacent to the Music Studio.

WRIGHT MEMORIAL
THEATRE

This building is named
in honor of
CHARLES BAKER WRIGHT
Professor of Rhetoric
and English Literature
at Middlebury College
from 1885 to 1920
and his beloved wife
CLARA ALEXANDER WRIGHT

Its construction was made possible by their generous gifts and gifts from Alumni and Friends of Middlebury College and by grants from the Kresge Foundation and the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation

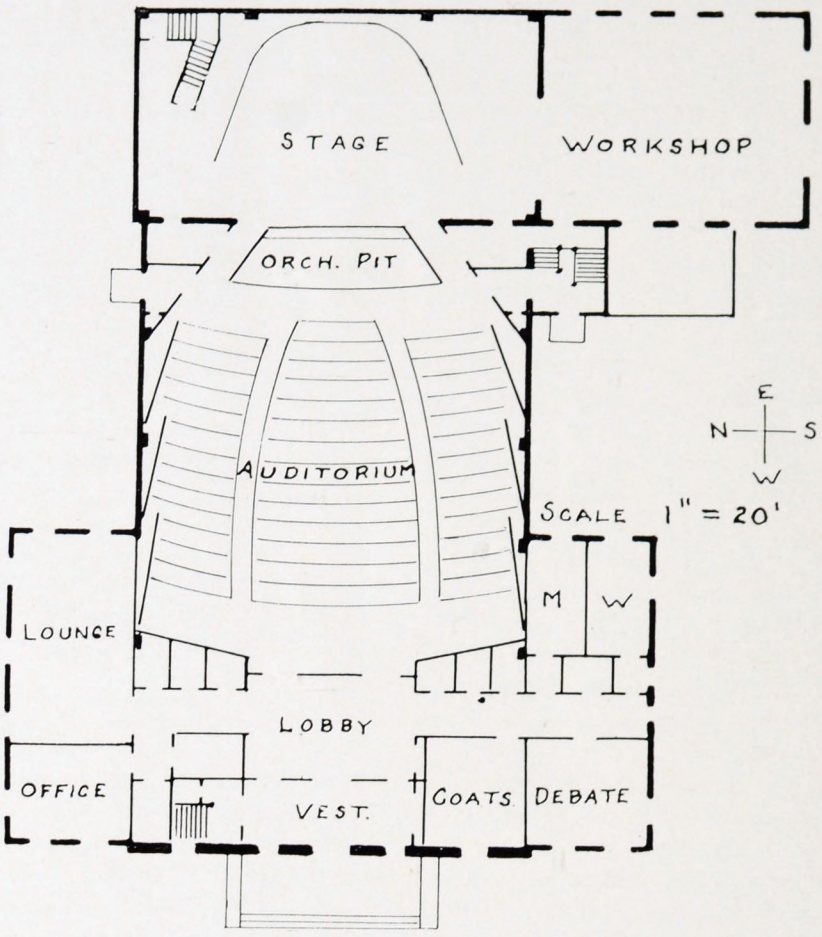
A tour of the new Theatre shortly before the preparation of this article reveals that dividing walls are in place identifying stage, shop and auditorium, as well as classrooms, offices and various work and storage areas. Tremendous tasks of finishing and equipping lie ahead in the next few months, but already, numerous special features of the building are discernible. For instance, display cases for pictures of current and coming attractions are located in the outer and inner lobbies and a check room provides a convenience, never before available to theatre patrons in Middlebury. A debate room and lavatories complete the right wing of the lobby, while on the left are the box office, public telephone, director's office and lounge. Six listening booths for speech work flank the two wide entrance doors in the back wall of the auditorium. Each of these booths will be equipped with a tape-recorder and playback so that students may record all types of oral work and listen critically to their results for possibilities of improvement in voice control and organization of material.

Above the lobby are located a classroom for forty students, two additional offices, a seminar room and the control booth. The latter is one of the outstanding features of the building in that it will contain an electronic dimming system of the latest design. This system will control all of the stage lighting and provide a view of the stage through which the operators can instantaneously check all of their effects. This booth is also the projection center for sound effects and 16mm movies.

Checking on the progress of the construction of the Wright Memorial Theatre are (left to right) Professor Erie T. Volkert, President Samuel S. Stratton, Business Manager Carroll Rikert and Walter E. Brooker, Director of the College's Development Program. Many hours were spent by Professor Volkert, Dr. Stratton and Mr. Rikert in working out the details for the construction of the Theatre.

The auditorium provides two very important requirements which Middlebury theatre audiences have lacked in previous years; namely good visibilty and comfortable seating. The former is made possible by the sloping floor and careful jogging of seats to permit an unobstructed view of the stage. The latter is achieved with permanent armed chairs which are cushioned and upholstered. The suspended ceiling over the auditorium has been accoustically engi-

Editor's Note: Construction costs for the Wright Memorial Theatre total—$525,000.

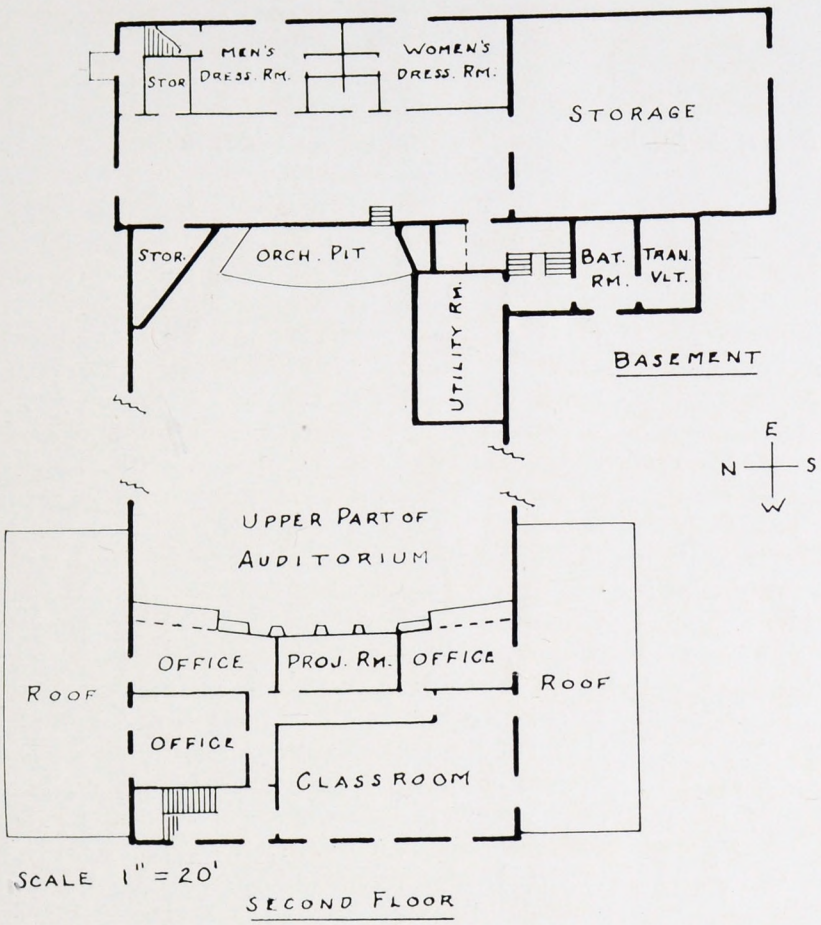


neered to further provide optimum audibility, thus eliminating the most annoying defect of the old Playhouse and of the two gymnasiums used as theatres in recent years. This ceiling is also pierced by three coves in which spotlights are hung in order to light the front areas of the stage proper and the stage apron.

The arrangement of the forestage is certain to attract the interest of every stage-minded visitor. It has been planned to afford maximum flexibility of production techniques while retaining the potentials of a conventional proscenium stage. This is accomplished first of all by the presence of an orchestra pit. When this area is not being used to accommodate musicians, various levels may be mounted in it making possible a wide range of dynamic scenes out in front of the stage curtain. Further, the entire pit may be covered over, extending the stage ten feet beyond the front curtain in a manner suggestive of the Elizabethan stage. Flooring and a system of Uni-strut supports to accomplish this device have been a part of the theatre plan since its inception. Large doorways mounted in small side-stages, also in front of the curtain, and openings above them for windows or balconies open up almost unlimited possibilities for staging Shakespearean and other period plays.

Several additional "firsts" among Middlebury theatres appear on the stage proper of Wright Memorial Theatre. Foremost among them is a counterweight or "flying" system which will hoist full-height scenery out of sight overhead in only seconds, making possible extremely rapid scene shifts. A plaster cyclorama (*sky background*) and a complete set of traps in the stage floor leading to the basement contribute further to a well-equipped stage. The stage manager's corner also deserves special mention as it is equipped with a communication system to the dressing rooms, orchestra pit, fly galleries, the light control booth at the rear of the auditorium, the lobby, box office, and outlets in the auditorium. Thus, the stage manager can relay all cues and instructions from the director seated in the auditorium during rehearsals, and supervise the entire production from his station during performances. Directly under the back portion of the stage are located the makeup-dressing rooms. These are complete with showers and toilets and include a separate area for wardrobe. For visiting celebrities, there is a small individual "star" dressing room.

The shop is an answer to the "do-it-yourself" stage-technicians prayer. It is large; well lighted, both naturally and artificially; and equipped with all of the necessary hand and power tools. It has moveable racks for lumber and paints, as well as storage drawers for hardware and tools. A most useful feature here is a paint frame forty feet long and sixteen feet high to accommodate full-sized backdrops for the stage. This frame rises from the basement through a slot along one entire wall of the shop, so that a painter may paint a drop beginning at the top and working his way down, as the frame is raised through the slot by means of a winch. The shop is also related to the stage by means of



an opening large enough to permit access of a wagon on which a complete set is mounted. This device will also contribute much toward rapid scene shifts.

These, along with the stage lighting system, are the main features of the building as a theatre. The lighting system and numerous other details would have to be seen to be appreciated and I am hoping that all of you will sooner or later make a personal tour of inspection. Such a tour will also afford assurance that every precaution has been taken to reduce to a minimum the possibilities of fire. Most of the building is constructed of poured concrete, cement blocks, and steel. The roof is of slate and all danger centers are protected by a sprinkler system. Utility rooms and the electronic tube system for the lighting controls are housed in concrete vaults well insulated from the theatre proper. The exterior is designed to blend in with the three Battell dormitories which stand opposite it across an expanse of lawn; hence it is finished in the same Vermont limestone used on these buildings. A columned portico and ballustrades atop the side wings further accent the Georgian architectural style of the Battells.

As details of this building take shape, one becomes increasingly aware of the meticulous planning that has gone into its preparation during the past four years. Soon after the fire, the building committee of the trustees began considering plans for a new theatre. This committee is composed of Leon S. Gay, Chairman, William H. Edmunds, Mrs. Joseph K. Milliken, Moses G. Hubbard, and R. S. Noonan. Great care was taken in every step along the way to arrive at the optimum in theatre structures within the budget for this project. In the course of their deliberation, this committee considered at least nine different sites for the theatre, among which were both ends of the Memorial Field House and the old High School Gymnasium. Excellent plans were submitted for each of these, but the committee ultimately decided in favor of a free-standing building to be erected on the campus proper. This decision involved considerable extra expense for the external decor in order to keep the building consistent in appearance with the other buildings in the campus environment. But this expense was approved without reducing any of the provisions of the final plan. The present location on the Chateau Road, next to the Music Studio, makes the Theatre an integral part of the Campus easily accessible to student participants in theatre and speech work and to prospective audiences.

The final designs for the structure are a composite of the plans and desires of many individuals and groups. During the first two years of preliminary decisions, there were numerous meetings between representatives of the building committee; McKim, Mead & White, the architects; Edward C. Cole, consultant; Mr. Rikert, College Business Manager; and sometimes Dr. Stratton, Dr. Freeman and Mr. Chaffee, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. It was my pleasure to attend many of these meetings and I was invited to submit [*Continued on page 12*]

with our FACULTY

By Professor John G. Bowker, *Dean of the Faculty*

I HAVE just finished reading Dr. Stratton's article on Page 4 of this issue of *Your Family and Middlebury* entitled "Middlebury's Goal Is Improvement of 'Quality'." I agree with Dr. Stratton that one has a "temptation" to relate the current presentation of the problems of Higher Education to Middlebury.

President Stratton in his article does an excellent piece of work in presenting the problems facing the College in 1958 as it continually strives towards the goal of "improvement of quality."

He has been pointing out for several years that our students bear too small a proportion of the actual cost of their education and that realistically every student is subsidized by an underpaid faculty. It is reassuring to note that increased tuitions are closing the gap and that significant upward revisions of faculty salaries have already been made, with more to come. Never has Middlebury been served by a more dedicated and competent faculty. And never was it more important that we hold our share of these fine scholars and be able to attract others as needed.

The Press points out the danger that many unusually capable students will be lost in the masses. Fortunately at Middlebury our numbers cannot increase, and this danger is not a real one to us. In addition our Faculty Educational Policy Committee expects to propose a plan to the faculty, possibly next month, which will provide much more opportunity for individual honors work by competent students during the senior year. Deans List students have just been granted the privilege of unlimited cuts which will enable the better students of all classes to use their time to the full. Although freshmen are normally confined to a prescribed set of courses, all students are privileged to move up a peg in any department where their performance at the assigned level indicates greater competence. Our faculty is alert to spot unusual talent and recommend such promotions; every effort is made to encourage the more able students. On the other hand, and as stated by Dean Waggoner of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we too have had a faculty committee which has devoted much time in recent years to the problems of marginal students, but recent faculty rulings regarding probations and dismissals have been designed to remove at an early stage the student who seems unable to profit academically from his Middlebury experience. After every opportunity to recover one's status has been granted, such people must be asked to leave to provide space for others.

Middlebury's faculty is composed fundamentally of teachers, and our teaching loads seldom allow time for research. But, as frequently reported on this page, a surprising amount of writing and research is always in progress. At least four foundation-supported projects employing the attention of faculty and students of the science division are now in operation on the campus.

Because we are aware of the importance of an understanding of and insight into cultures of the "Non-Western World," Middlebury is joining the fourteen other colleges in the State of Vermont in an effort to obtain financial support for a statewide program in Eastern Civilizations. We envision the use of mechancial aids such as tape recorders, slide projectors, and close-circuit television to enable three scholars in Eastern cultures to teach courses at all of the colleges, lecturing alternately in person and by means of mechanical devices on each campus. Our offerings in Asian Studies now include courses in (1) the History and Theory of Eastern Art, (2) Far Eastern History, (3) Governments and Politics of the Far East and Southeast Asia, and (4) Geography of Asia, Africa, and the Australian Region. Additional offerings under the program described above might make possible an area study major. I am not concerned with the risks of complacency at Middlebury. Administration and faculty were never more alert to their responsibilities directly ahead.

Faculty recipients of duPont Awards for summer research and study during 1958 are Professor Hoag (contemporary civilization), Associate Professor Perkins (English), and Assistant Professors Cubeta (English) and Reynolds (history). Many strong and worthy projects were proposed. The problem of selecting the winners was so difficult that Dr. Stratton allocated additional funds to the duPont Grant so that the opportunity could go to four faculty members instead of the usual three. The Chemistry Department has again been awarded $2500 by the duPont Company to continue the research projects in which all members of the chemistry faculty have participated. A complete description and report on the summer study activities will appear on this page next winter.

Dr. Pardon Tillinghast (*history*) has just been awarded a generous fellowship by the Church So-

ciety for College Work which will enable him to attend the six-week Summer School in Theology and Religion for college and University teachers to be held at the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Professor Tillinghast will be one of twenty-five participants in a program of discussion, study, and writing under the direction of several outstanding professors of theology.

Dr. Robert M. Chute (*biology*) has been granted an appropriation from the United States Public Health service for research on "Experimental Trichinosis in Hibernating Hosts." Professor Chute and his assistants will attempt to determine the progress of trichinosis during periods of low body temperatures such as would be present in a hibernating animal. Hamsters will be used in the experiments. Bob did research on the trichinella spiralis, which causes the disease, while working on his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. In his current project he also plans to accumulate data on the actual mechanism of hibernation, a subject receiving attention in connection with other diseases. Dr. Chute will spend his next two summer vacation periods on this research.

The announcement of Dr. Reynolds' appointment as Dean of Men, effective July 1, has been acclaimed by faculty, administration, and students, but I feel sure that others will share my disappointment that an excellent teacher is obliged to relinquish some of his classroom contacts. With Professor Merriman's acceptance of the post of Dean of Freshman Men, (*see page* 2) an equally popular appointment, it would appear that the reordering of responsibilities in Old Chapel may have been at the expense of the classroom. Actually the situation is less unfortunate, for both deans will continue to teach part time. And Dr. Thurber, present Acting Dean of Men and Assistant Professor of Political Science, will return to full-time teaching in the fall, as will Mr. Handy, Director of Admissions for Men and former instructor in English.

Dr. Berger's new composition, "Short Symphony," is being presented by a music symposium group at the University of Redlands in California late in March. The symphony was selected for one of eight prizes in a national contest and gives further evidence to the widespread attention our music department is drawing, through Professor Berger's modern compositions and Dr. Alan Carter's work with symphonic groups.

Assistant Professor Fernand Marty was honored recently by Audio Devices, Inc. of New York for advanced ideas on the uses of sound recording equipment in the teaching of languages. At a formal presentation ceremony here at the College, M. Marty was presented with considerable equipment for his laboratory and a certificate which cited his "outstanding ability and readiness to enrich the educational experiences of students through the application of modern sound recording materials." Professor Marty, a member of the French department faculty since 1947, is largely responsible for the success of our unique language instruction center in Hillcrest Hall.

Mr. James Wilson, Instructor in Political Science, has compiled a river regulation report on public administration of New York's water resources as a result of his work last summer on the Black River Basin area. "Water resources have become a matter of great concern to New York State," says Wilson, "their Water Power and Control Commission is a strong central authority for regulation. Vermont is indeed fortunate that its water problems are less critical."

Professor Arthur Healy was at Mt. Holyoke College early in February to preside at a reception in his honor at the opening of the exhibit of his water colors at the Dwight Art Memorial. These scenes from Italy were paintings done by Arthur when he visited Italy in 1954-55. Complementing the exhibit were numerous Etruscan relics lent by Professor Valentine Giamatti of the Mt. Holyoke faculty.

Mr. Peter Walton is again on leave this semester, and **Mr. Sergio Bugnolo** is substituting. Bugnolo has Fine Arts degrees from the University of Chicago and Indiana University and is an accomplished painter. **Professor Guarnaccia** and family have returned from Spain and Italy. Sam's "double header" course in Italian this semester has attracted unusual attention. **Professor Alan Carter** has resumed his duties in the Music Department after sabbatical leave.

Professor Wissler will be teaching again this next summer at the Institute for Physics Teachers at Wesleyan University. This is one of the many refresher institutes in science sponsored by the National Science Foundation. **Miss Mary Lick** chairman of the department of physical education for women, has been elected chairman of the Vermont Board of Women's Sports Officials. **Dr. David K. Smith,** '42, (*economics*) was elected Trustee of the Village of Middlebury at the annual meeting in February, succeeding **Professor Emeritus Waldo Heinrichs,** who had [*Continued on page 12*]

THE WRIGHT MEMORIAL THEATRE

[*Continued from page 9*]

suggestions and opinions on all phases of development. I was also sent by the College to examine and photograph the Harrisburg (Pa.) Community Theatre which was designed by Harlan E. Swift, assisted by his daughter, Gladys, '46. This theatre and information supplied by the Swifts was most helpful in determining layout of the backstage areas, new construction materials, and relative costs. Other trips to Century Lighting Company of New York; Hunter, Bowdoin, and Colby Colleges, the latter with Mr. Rikert and Mr. Potter, provided first hand information on the use of new materials and on the Izenour-Century stage lighting control system, which was finally selected for our theatre. When Mr. Chandler Potter joined the drama staff in September, 1956, as designer and technician, he contributed many valuable suggestions and detailed plans, all of which were given careful consideration by the committee. Mr. Potter came to us from the Pittsburg Playhouse where he was designer for several years after having taught and designed at Stephens College in Missouri. He is a graduate of Amherst College and of Yale University. Other contributions were made by David Bridges, '55, and Judith Berry, '55, who made detailed studies of stage and shop layouts as advanced projects in their drama major. In addition, a complete set of plans representing the theatre needs of the language schools were submitted by Professor Claude Bourcier.

All of these activities and the untiring vigilance of Mr. Rikert in checking every detail of the layout and operation as the building progressed, have produced the present building.

In the interim, the drama courses have met in Munroe Hall and the "Gables." Rehearsals have been held in any building where there was space and a few chairs. Mr. Potter has replaced Mr. James Van Wart, Professor Horace Beck is assisting Professor Frederick B. Bowman by taking two of the five sections of speech. Dr. Bowman, has added courses in oral interpretation and advanced speaking to his regular schedule of elementary speech courses. In addition, he has conducted a most successful debate program, competing in tournaments against the nation's top debating teams. Few changes have been made in the curriculum. The literary courses have been contracted by one term course and the directing course has been re-expanded to a full year. Oral Interpretation and an advanced Seminar are now required of all majors whereas the course in Stagecraft is optional.

During these four years, the program of plays has continued uncurtailed. With the Drama Department as producers, *Wig and Pen* and *Players* have presented a minimum of three major productions each year supplemented with original three-act plays on two occasions and additional special productions such as *A Sleep of Prisoners* and *Six Characters in Search of An Author* in two other years. Among the regular year's program have been such plays as O'Neill's *Ah Wilderness*, Miller's *The Crucible*, Van Druten's *Bell, Book and Candle*, Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Bagnold's *The Chalk Garden* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hamlet*. All of these were produced in McCullough Gymnasium, while *Mr. Roberts*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Stalag 17*, and *My Sister Eileen* were produced as Carnival plays in the old High School Gymnasium. Members of the Directing and Production classes have continued to present three to twelve one-act plays each year.

As of the beginning of this year, *Wig and Pen* has become an honorary society and Peter Honegger, who played the title role in *Hamlet* is its president.

At the moment of this writing, the drama staff, *Players* (now an active organization) and the members of *Wig and Pen* are planning a spring moving party to the Wright Memorial Theatre in preparation for the proposed opening at Commencement time. As curricular and extracurricular activities become established in the new building, the Drama Department will be equipped to offer its students the best in theatre training and experience. Even as we prepare to move, all of us are made increasingly aware of the importance of this theatre not only to those interested in drama courses and dramatic activities, but to the whole college community. For in erecting it, the trustees and administration are affirming the value of such courses and activities in a liberal college and in a world caught in the throes of missile hysteria. Perhaps in the coming scientific age our concern with human character and human actions in this theatre will be of some value to participants and spectators alike in maintaining a perspective on life whose focus is on man. We look forward to increased interest and productivity in all areas of dramatic work and to pleasing you as well as student and community audiences with a variety of the best in classic and contemporary drama.

WITH OUR FACULTY

[*Continued from page 11*]

served since 1951, when he succeeded the writer, who had been on the board since 1939. Prior to that year, several decades had passed without faculty representation on local governing boards. Dave's classmate, Phillip Wissell, '42, was also elected Trustee at the same Village meeting this year.

New Book

Members of the Middlebury Family are eagerly awaiting the publication in May of "Doc" Cook's new book, *The Dimensions of Robert Frost*. This is a book-length essay in literary criticism written in California during two sabbatical leaves. "Doc's" association with Mr. Frost dates back to 1924, when "Doc" was a senior at Middlebury, and much of the material for this book is based upon his personal relationship with the poet during many years at the Breadloaf School of English. Rinehart and Company is the publisher. More about this book in the *Summer Issue*.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Apr.	19	**RPI	Home	May	10	**Lowell Tech.	Home
Apr.	23	Williams	Away	May	12	*U. V. M.	Home
Apr.	25	*Union	Home	May	14	Clarkson	Away
Apr.	30	St. Michael's	Away	May	15	St. Lawrence	Away
May	2	AIC	Away	May	17	**Wesleyan	Home
May	3	Trinity	Away	May	19	Norwich	Away
May	5	*Norwich	Home	May	21	U. V. M.	Away
May	9	*St. Michael's	Home				

* 3:30 P. M. ** 2:00 P. M.